

06

☐

☐ DECLASSIFIED **CONFIDENTIAL**

C

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

DATE: _____

REFERENCES

12 November 1946

PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT 25X1

25X1 ORIGIN

DISTRIBUTION

[illegible]

25X1

1. In recent weeks, members of the Association for Economic and Cultural Relations with the Soviet Union have been attempting to form an Austro-Russian Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber, if created, will be closely affiliated with the Chamber of Commerce of the Soviet Union in Moscow and with the Austrian Chamber of Commerce in Vienna. The general purpose of the Chamber will be as follows:
 - a. To supply Soviet and Austrian official organs with necessary information regarding foreign and internal trade and other matters which affect the economic life of both countries.
 - b. To encourage trade and economic relations between the two countries.
 - c. To collect statistical data, official publications, and other background information regarding the commercial and economic activity of both countries.
 - d. To assist its members and interested Soviet and Austrian organizations in obtaining information regarding legal procedures, foreign and internal trade, taxes, transportation, etc., in both countries.
 - e. To encourage industrial fairs and expositions with the cooperation of the respective governments.
2. Only citizens of Austria and the Soviet Union and commercial companies or organizations which have their official seats either in Austria or in the Soviet Union will be eligible for membership. The Chamber will maintain friendly relations with Russian circles in Austria and will be given the support of the Soviet Union.

25X1

25X1

25X1

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

-2-

for Trade and Reconstruction. They hoped to enroll other important Austrian officials as members of the Chamber.

- 25X1
5. Comment: The plans for establishing such a Chamber of Commerce will probably prove unsuccessful. At any rate, it is not anticipated that the Chamber will be formed in the near future. The Russians have been promising for some time to furnish a list of names of the Russian members of the proposed Chamber. This list of names has been submitted on several occasions to Moscow for approval, but no reply has yet been received.)
6. Soviet economic representatives make no secret of their unwillingness to assist Austria in economic matters as long as the Austrian Government maintains its "pro-Western" orientation. They prefer to arrange contracts directly with Austrian firms in the Russian Zone and have no intention of using ministerial channels. Relationships between Russian authorities and Austrian representatives of the economic ministries, while courteous on the surface, are extremely limited and provide no meeting ground for mutual cooperation. Plans for the creation of a joint committee composed of Austrian and Russian representatives which would deal with economic matters have been unsuccessful.
- 25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

~~SECRET~~25X1
25X1